

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ABF-01 MCE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 221044Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CD
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MALLOUM DISCUSSES AGGRESSION

IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW GIVEN THIS WEEK PRESIDENT
MALLUM MADE A SERIES OF CHARGES REGARDING OUTSIDE
AGGRESSION. AS THESE ARE THE MOST DETAILED OF SUCH
RECENT CHARGES AND AS FOR THE FIRST TIME ALGERIA IS
MENTIONED, THEY ARE REPORTED IN TOTAL BELOW.

Q--DO YOU THINK THAT A POLITICAL SOULUTION WILL BE
FOURND THROUGH A MILITARY SOLUTION?
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A--I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO
IMPOSE HIMSELF BY FORCE OF ARMS.

Q --WITH THE FRENCH FORCES-- INFANORY AND AVIATION WHICH
ARE NOW PRESENT IN CHAD, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO RECONQUER
TERRITORY WHICH IS NO LONGER UNDER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF
THE GOC?

A --THE INCREASE OF MILITARY MEANS AND MILITARY AID TO CHAD IS A RESULT OF THE AGGRESSION OF WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN THE OBJECT DESPITE THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOC TO ARRANGE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AMONG CHADIANS. TO ENLIGHTEN YOU, HERE ARE A FEW POINTS OF INFORMATION FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES OF INFORMATION WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN DIVULGED.

ON JUNE 5, 1978, WE LEARNED THAT IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING COL. QADHAFI'S TRIP TO ALGIERS THERE WERE MOVEMENTS OF ALGERIAN TROOPS COMING FROM TAMANRASSET VIA JANET AND GAT. THESE TROOPS, OF UNDERTERMINED NUMBER, WERE HEADED TOWARDS SEBHA IN LIBYA.

ON JUNE 10, 1978, WE ALSO LEARNED THAT SINCE MAY 25 LIBYAN MILITARY AIRPLANES HAVE BEEN LANDING DAILY AT FAYA LARGEAU, TRANSPORTING ARMS, AMMUNITION AND LIBYAN MILITARY MATERIEL.

ELEMENTS OF THE LIBYAN ARMY PRESENT IN CHAD, NAMELY IN THE FAYA LARGEAU REGION ARE UNDER THE COMMAND OF LT. COL. MESSAOUD, COMMANDER OF THE SEBHA REGION. THEY ARE SUPPORTED FROM AIR BASES AT KOUFRA AND SEBHA. KOUFRA, WHICH ALREADY HAD SIX MIRAGE 5 AIRCRAFT HAS JUST RECEIVED FOUR MORE. SEBHA IS AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF MIRAGES FROM AIR BASES LOCATED IN SOUTHERN LIBY. AT THE END OF MAY, AIR FORCE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS IN TRIPOLI DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLITY OF AIR RAIDS ON CHAD. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON JUNE 13, 1978, WE LEARNED THAT SINCE JUNE 8 LIBYAN MATERIEL AND MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE BEING SENT OVERLAND FROM SEBHA INTO CHAXM. THE EQUIPMENT INCLUDED BMP LIGHT TANKS, BTR 60 ARMORED CARS, SSVM 21 ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES. THESE REINFORCEMENTS WERE DESTINED FOR THE POSTS OF ZOUAR AND FAYA LARGEAU. THE ZOUAR GARRISON IS COMPOSED OF A FORCE ESTIMATED AT 1,000 MEN FROM THE LIBYAN REGUALR ARMY. WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS, ESCAPEES FROM THE BET (NORTHERN PROVINCE OF CHAD) AND THE AREAS OF SALAL AND ARADA CONFIRM THAT CUBAN SOLDIERS ARE SERVING WITH FROLINAT/ GOUKOUNI AND LIBYAN TROOPS INFILTRATED INTO CHAD. ON JUNE 15, THEIR PRESENCE WAS SIGNALLED NOT ONLY IN BET BUT ALSO IN SALAL AND ARADA. DURING THE FIRST HALF OF JUNE, OUR RADIO NETWORK IN THE KANEM SECTOR TWICE PICKED UP SPANISH LANGUAGE MILITARY RADIO BROADCAST CONVERSTATIONS.

Q-- THE FACT THAT THIS WAS IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE IS AN INDICATION, BUT NO ABSOLUTE PROOF.

A --IT IS PROOF, LIBYANS DON'T SPEAK SPANISH.

Q --BUT CAN'T THEIR BE SPANISH SPEAKERS WHO MIGHT NOT BE CUBAN?

A --IN ANY CASE, THEY'RE CUBAN. THE SAME SORT OF BROADCASTS WERE PICKED UP BY THE DEFENDERS OF FAYA LARGEAU LAST FEBRUARY.

Q --WHY DON'T FRANCO-CHADIAN AIR FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE JAGUARS, ATTACK LIBYAN COLUMNS AND LIBYAN POSITIONS ON CHADIAN TERRITORY?

A --WE DO NOT WISH WAR. WE REPLY ONLY WHEN WE ARE ATTACKED.
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Q --DON'T YOU CONSIDER THAT YOU ARE ATTACKED AS THERE ARE LIBYAN FORCES ON CHADIAN TERRITORY?

A --WE FEEL THAT IN THIS ATTACK THOSE WHO ARE HURT THE MOST ARE FIRST OF ALL CHADIANS.

Q --DO YOU THINK THAT THERE ARE ALGERIAN SOLDIERS ON CHADIAN TERRITORY?

A --I DON'T KNOW IF THE MOVEMENT OF THESE TROOPS WILL HALT AT SEBHA OR CONTINUE ONWARD. BRADFORD

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